

## TITAN'S SONG by Lawrence Nault

### Book Group Discussion Guide

#### About the Book

"Titan's Song" follows the MacIver siblings as they journey to Titan (Aha Nui) to help save a civilization facing environmental collapse. Through their quest to restore harmony to this alien world, the story explores themes of environmental stewardship, family bonds, cultural preservation, and the balance between technological progress and natural harmony.

#### Discussion Questions

##### *Themes and Symbolism*

1. How does the author use the Moai statues as symbols throughout the story? What might they represent beyond their literal function?
2. Discuss the parallels between the environmental crisis on Aha Nui and current environmental challenges on Earth.
3. How does the concept of "harmony" manifest in different ways throughout the story?
4. What role does music and sound play in the narrative? How does it connect to the larger themes?

##### *Characters and Relationships*

1. Each MacIver sibling has unique strengths and connections to different worlds. How do their individual differences contribute to their success as a group?
2. How does Brad's relationship with someone he left behind affect his actions and character development?
3. Discuss Antonia's journey as she discovers her role as Keeper of the Moai. How does this responsibility change her?
4. Compare and contrast Tane and Rongo's different approaches to leadership and tradition.

##### *World Building and Setting*

1. How does the author create a believable alien environment while maintaining connections to Earth culture through the Rapa Nui?
2. Discuss the various creatures of Aha Nui (Kaioha Nui, Lunari Lumifin, Methalodons). How do they contribute to the story beyond just being part of the environment?
3. How does the author use Saturn's presence in the sky to enhance the otherworldly setting?

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### *Plot and Structure*

1. How does the discovery of Heke's journal in the crystal cave change our understanding of the story?
2. Discuss the significance of Kelly's injury and Rongo's sacrifice. How do these events impact the larger narrative?
3. What role does the crystal cave play in the story? Consider both its literal and symbolic significance.

### *Cultural and Social Themes*

1. How does the story address the balance between technological progress and cultural preservation?
2. Discuss the role of tradition in Rapa Nui society. How do they navigate between holding onto the past and embracing necessary change?
3. How does the story explore the concept of family across different cultures and species?

### *Environmental Themes*

1. How does the author portray the relationship between technology and environmental destruction?
2. What message does the story convey about environmental responsibility and stewardship?
3. Discuss how the harmony of Aha Nui is restored. What lessons might this offer for our own environmental challenges?

### **Activities for Your Group**

#### *Environmental Connection*

- Research local environmental issues in your area
- Discuss parallels between these issues and those in the book
- Brainstorm potential solutions inspired by the book's themes

#### *Musical Exploration*

- Listen to Gregorian chants or singing bowls
- Discuss how different sounds affect mood and atmosphere
- Explore how music can create harmony or discord

#### *Creative Writing*

- Write a short story from the perspective of one of the creatures on Aha Nui
- Create a journal entry as one of the MacIver siblings
- Design your own alien creature that might exist on Titan

#### *Scientific Discussion*

- Research Titan's actual environment and compare it to the book's portrayal
- Discuss how the author balanced scientific fact with fiction
- Explore current environmental technologies and their impacts

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### Further Reading Suggestions

#### 1. *Environmental Science Fiction*

- "The Word for World is Forest" by Ursula K. Le Guin
- "Dune" by Frank Herbert
- "The Drowned World" by J.G. Ballard

#### 2. *Family-Centered Science Fiction*

- "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle
- "The House of the Scorpion" by Nancy Farmer

#### 3. *Cultural Preservation and Progress*

- "The Dispossessed" by Ursula K. Le Guin
- "The Parable of the Sower" by Octavia Butler

#### 4. *Environmental Non-Fiction*

- "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson
- "The Sixth Extinction" by Elizabeth Kolbert